

QUARTERLY STATUS REPORT

DATE: October 25, 2005

STREAMLINING

PROJECT: Evaluation of Wildlife Crossing Structures on US Highway 93 Evaro to Polson—Phase 1: Pre-construction data collection and finalization of evaluation

START DATE: March 1, 2002

EXPECTED

COMPLETION DATE: June 30, 2006

FUNDING LEVEL: \$562,500 (including 20% match from Montana Department of Transportation)

ANTICIPATED

PRODUCTS:

- Memo to Technical Design Committee on monitoring design considerations (completed May 2002)
- Animal-vehicle collision database (60% complete)
- Field Methods and Safety Protocol Handbook (draft 100% complete; submitted to MDT April 4, 2005)
- Summary of literature and existing data (90% complete; on-going)
- Memo defining the Measures of Effectiveness (75% complete)
- Long-term Research and Monitoring Evaluation Plan (60% complete)
- Phase 1 Pre-construction Case Study (60% complete)
- Pre-construction field data summary report (40% complete)

MEASURABLE

RESULTS:

(i.e. how did the project advance environmental streamlining)

PLEASE PROVIDE THE STATUS OF ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTS (E.G., PROJECT MILESTONES, DELIVERABLES, PRODUCT DISSEMINATION, RELEVANT DIVISION ACTIVITIES) FOR THE PROJECT IN THE APPROPRIATE SPACE(S) BELOW.

FOURTH REPORTING PERIOD (7/1/05-9/30/05)

Division Contact: Bob Seliskar

Funding Spent-to-Date: \$535,937.19

Funding Balance Remaining: \$26,562.81

On-going Activities

- Literature search and compilation of relevant data.
- Mentoring Whisper Maillet, WTI Graduate Fellow supported in cooperation with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), with her thesis field research on US 93 deer crossings and deer-vehicle mortalities prior to the installation of mitigation measures.

July 2005

- Monitoring track beds (2x/week) in Ravalli Curves, Ravalli Hill and Evaro study areas
- Drafting literature review.
- Drafting case study.
- MDT provided review comments on the draft Field Methods Handbook.

August 2005

- Continued monitoring track beds 2x/week.
- Continued drafting literature review and case study.
- Completed 21 of 25 pellet count transects.

September 2005

- Continued monitoring track beds 2x/week.
- Literature review draft being edited.
- Finished last 4 pellet count transects.

Summary

Bear study thesis has been drafted and successfully defended; final thesis was delivered April 2005 and will be summarized in a chapter in the final report. Deer study is in process of analyses and drafting of thesis; we expect a draft thesis to be delivered by February 2006 and will summarize the results in a chapter in the final report. Road-kill data has been compiled through 2004. Tracking bed data collection protocols are all in place as are databases and quality assurance/quality control systems. All protocols are documented in the Field Methods Handbook; MDT provided comments on the draft of the Handbook in July. The track beds were maintained and a field technician is monitoring a total of 42 track beds twice a week. Draft product delivery is behind schedule; however, WTI has a draft literature review currently undergoing internal review, and the case study draft, measures of effectiveness and post-construction monitoring plan are all underway. We expect to be able to focus significant time on the draft report in January.